

## **Our Lady of the Abingtons**

**Seminary Road Dalton, PA**

**Sunday September 16, 2018**

This picnic is small and basically boring. There was no car show this year. Parking was better this year, on the church grounds instead of in the mud field. The food is good and reasonably priced. The entertainment is eeh!. Better than last year but still not exciting. They allow you to walk with your beer. If there is no other picnic, or don't mind a boring picnic this is the one. Years ago this picnic would have top name bands. No more.

Rating 3 \*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## **St. Paul's Parish**

**Penn Ave. Scranton**

**Saturday September 15, 2018**

This picnic changes every year. Some years for the better, some for the worse. The food is good and reasonably priced. The band was very good. The food selection was less than last year. They allowed you to walk with your beer this year. This year it seemed a little unorganized. Of course the children throwing balls is a guarantee, they do not control the children. I got hit once, told them if I get hit again the ball is going in the toilet. Staff should keep the children under control, since the police does not. This ruins an otherwise nice picnic.

Rating 3 \*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## **Felittese Festival**

**3rd St. Old Forge**

**Saturday September 8, 2018**

This is a nice picnic. The food is very good and homemade. The band was excellent. Parking was relatively close by. My only complaint is they shut down the picnic at 9pm. Not sure if because of the rain earlier or lack of customers. This is still a very good picnic, shame they closed so early

Rating 4 \*\*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## **La Festa Italiana**

**Downtown Scranton**

## **Sunday September 2, 2018**

This is always a decent event. The food is good the entertainment is good. The parking is expensive. This year I am only going to give it a 4 star rating. Because all the prices were very expensive. People still bring their pet dogs. With thousands of people on the grounds that is no place to bring your dog. Most important, normally I will go to the festival more than one time. This year not because of two highly offensive republican propaganda trucks parked at the festival by Bob Bolus. I sent an email to the director of La Festa and to city council about the two offensive vehicles. Other than that a nice festival.

Rating 4 \*\*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## **Throop Cow Flop**

## **Washington St. Park Throop**

## **Friday August 24, 2018**

This picnic used to be much better. Used to be much bigger. Used to have good bands, now a single player. Used to have more stands. Had to wait for pizza to be delivered from the restaurant. Only about 15 to 25 people on the grounds. This picnic was rather boring this year. A waste of 45 minutes.

Rating 1\* and 1/2 \* out of 5 \*

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## **Pittston Tomato Festival**

## **Downtown Pittston**

## **Sunday August 19, 2018**

The tomato festival is always a good time. The food is good and varied however many of the selections were a little expensive. Unusual this year the Poets were not playing on Sunday. I saw two different bands on Sunday which were ok but really not great, You can drink beer in the firehouse where they also had a band. This year parking was close by and stage seating was available. My opinion the festival was lacking something this year, not sure what. I will be back again next year.

Rating 4 \*\*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## **Slavic Festival**

## **St. Mary's Center Mifflin and Mulberry Scranton**

## **Sunday August 19, 2018**

This is a small but very nice picnic. Their food is good and reasonably priced. They did not have any entertainment. They had a huge indoor basket raffle and bake sale. What I find unusual is this picnic is not attended very well. I can't understand why because it is a nice picnic. Close by parking, plenty of seating, and no beer cage.

Rating 3 \*\*\* and 1 /2 \* out of 5 \*

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## **Carbondale Pioneer Nights**

### **Downtown Carbondale, PA**

**Saturday August 18, 2018**

This picnic is right in downtown Carbondale. This year it was smaller than other years which I attended. They had several vendors, some usual vendors were missing this year. The food was reasonably priced and good quality. They had a great band Sweet Pepper and the Long Hots. It was an enjoyable picnic. Parked a block away which is typical. No food tickets. Definatly worth a visit,

Rating 4 \*\*\*\* out of 5

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## **St. John Newman Parish**

### **South Scranton, PA**

**Friday August 17, 2018**

This picnic would have been better if it didn't rain. I had some food which was good. The band left before I got there. They did have a DJ at the other end of the grounds. I still say they need better control of the teenagers who can be very ignorant. This used to be a great picnic, now just ok. They use food tickets, only one from this weekend.

Rating 3 \*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## **St. Judes's Parish**

### **Route 309 Mountaintop, PA**

**Sunday August 12, 2018**

This is a nice picnic in a beautiful setting. They have a ton of stands and choices of food. They really do not have much for entertainment. On Sunday they have a chicken BBQ. They do not have a beer cage. The

announcer gets a little annoying after a while. They do use the food tickets. Parking is right on the grounds and is paved. It is definitely one of the better picnics of the year.

Rating 4 \*\*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## **Springbrook Hose Company**

**Route 690 Springbrook, PA**

**Saturday August 11, 2018**

This a decent fire fighter picnic. The food is good and reasonably priced. No food tickets. The bands are decent. The parking lot is soggy. It is not a great picnic, but is not a bad picnic either. They have the cow flop where you can win big bucks if the cow does its duty on your square. They also have the biggest basket raffle I ever seen. Next year I will go on fireworks night.

Rating 3 \*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## **St. Rocco's Parish**

**Bunker Hill Section of Dunmore**

**Friday August 10, 2018**

This is one of my favorite picnics of the year. They have permanent structures for the picnic. The food is excellent and reasonably priced. No food tickets. The bands are great. The staff is friendly and extremely helpful. The parking is close right on the church grounds. There is no beer cage. This is by far one of the best of the year. They even have fireworks on Sunday. Without a doubt I will be back next year.

Rating 5 \*\*\*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## **St. John The Evangelist**

**Downtown Pittston**

**Thursday August 9, 2018**

This picnic is decent but not great. There is lot of parking close by. The food is good but not great, the bands are good. They use those annoying food tickets. Its a nice picnic to do on an off night such as Thursday. Everything is covered under tents. Will I go again next year, most likely.

Rating 3 \*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## Wayne County Fair

Route 191 Honesdale PA

Sunday August 5, 2018

This fair is better than the Northeast fair, but I am not sure if it is better than Allentown yet. The shuttle ride into the grounds is bumpy which adds to the charm. I really don't like the \$10 ride all rides, because I don't ride, but this will be great for families. The Wayne county fair was a somewhat educational entertaining way to spend a few hours on a 90 degree Sunday afternoon. I learned more about tractor pulling than any human being should know. I saw more teenagers in love than I had in a long time. Also I saw more cigarette smokers than I had in a long time. Will I go again next year. Depends on other options for that week.

Rating 3 \*\*\* and 1/2 \* out of 5 \*

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## Triton Hose Company

Route 6 Tunkhannock PA

Saturday August 4, 2018

This is a very nice picnic. Their pizza is great. Their roast beef is also good but not as good as Clifford. This is a very big picnic, but not as big as last year. It is very enjoyable. They had a great band Popstar Drive. They did not have fireworks this year. They had \$3 parking on the grounds but I just parked on a street close by. It is one of the best of the season. New this year is a very annoying unneeded siren at the hot wing stands. They can get rid of this.

Rating 4 \*\*\*\* and 1/2 \* out of 5 \*

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## St. Joseph's Center

Grounds of MaryWood College

Sunday July 29, 2018

This is a great picnic. One of the best of the year. It supports a great cause. The food was delicious and reasonably priced. They had games for both children and adults. They had local children as entertainment. This is ok but a band or DJ would be better. They had plenty of seating to have your food. They got parking right this year. Park on N. Washington Ave and take the frequent shuttle bus to the grounds. Like I always said this is the kind of picnic you can visit more than once.

Rating 5 \*\*\*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## Germania Hose Company

Foot Ave. Duryea, PA

Saturday July 28, 2018

This is a decent picnic. Improved this year, other than still using annoying food tickets. There were lines at the food stand, but the lines moved quickly. Also there was plenty of pizza always one serving, one being baked. They had rides for the children. A small basket raffle. They had a good band on Saturday. Parking was close in a large lot and free. They had fireworks on Sunday. This picnic is getting more like it used to be. Get rid of the food tickets and the old Germania would be back.

Rating 4 \*\*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## Clifford Fire Company

Route 106 Clifford, PA

Friday July 27, 2018

This is without a doubt one of the best fire fighter picnics of the year. The roast beef is excellent. They have a huge variety of food. They have a huge fireworks display which is synchronized. They have a chain saw carver artist who is excellent. You can even take a chance to win a gun. The bands are decent, and they also have music in the bar. It is held in a nice country setting. Parking is close in a huge lot.

Rating 5 \*\*\*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## St. Barbara's Parish

Exeter, PA

Sunday July 22, 2018

One word. Very disappointing. This used to be a good picnic that was worth the drive. Eventhough they use food tickets. This year they were missing lot of food items, no pizza, sold out of sausage and pepper. No more band just a DJ. Potatoe pancakes were ok, not great. Many of the stands they used to have are no longer there, less chances to win, no big 6 wheel. Rather boring this year when it used to be a lot better, and of course food tickets to make it "better". Hopefully next year it will be the way it used to be.

Rating 2 \*\* and 1/2 \* out of 5 \*

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## **St. Eulalia's Parish**

**Blue Shutters Road Elmhurst, PA**

**Friday July 20, 2018**

This was a nice small picnic. They had plenty of food at very reasonable prices. They had a polka band for entertainment. I am not a big fan of polka but they were appropriate for a small picnic like this. It was an enjoyable picnic. They had a huge flea market under a tent. The best thing is no more citronella candles except under the beer tent. Plenty of paved parking. I will be back next year.

Rating 4 \*\*\*\* and 1/2 \* out of 5 \*

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## **Covington Fire Company**

**Route 502 Daleville, PA**

**Saturday July 14, 2018**

This is a decent picnic not nearly as good as it used to be. This year I tried parking in the main lot, not bad for a dollar, but the last parking lot attendant was very ignorant. Instead of being at the end of the parking line showing people where to park, he was sitting on a quad 200 feet away YELLING at the people where to park, very ignorant. The food and beverages are very good and reasonably priced. There is plenty of things to see and do for both children and adults. The rides are relatively new and the operators follow the safety regulations. The mens room was OC (Odorifisly challenged). In other words smelled bad enough to gag a maggot. Possibly because of use all week, Saturday was the last day. The fireworks were nice, would have been better, if the rain held off. I will be back again next year possibly on a different day.

Rating 3 \*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## **Dalton Hose Company**

**Dalton, PA off Rtes. 6 and 11**

**Thursday July 12, 2108**

This is a nice picnic. The food is good although a little expensive for some of the items. The entertainment was great. This year parking was tight, I had to make three passes through the lot before I found a spot. The other option was the baseball field on top of the hill. I don't ride rides but the rides were "vintage", and a requirement for the operators was a cigarette or vaporizer. But they followed all safety regulations which is a great thing. I will definately be back next year.

Rating 4 \*\*\*\* and 1/2 \* out of 5 \*

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## **Nativity of Our Lord**

**Stephenson St. Duryea, PA**

**Friday July 6, 2018**

This is a decent picnic. The parking can be close by or far away, this year got lucky and parked right across the street. The food is good but there is a long line at some of the food stands. If you are only getting 3 or less of the potato pancakes, they have an express lane in the back which is a nice touch. No beer tent. They have a wide variety of food from clams to ice cream, all at a reasonable price. The band was good but not great. It was a nice picnic, and I will be back next year.

Rating 4 \*\*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## **Scrantastic Spectacular**

**Downtown Scranton**

**Tuesday July 3, 2018**

The Scrantastic Spectacular is always a nice time. This year there were more vendors, but the most popular vendors were greatly understaffed as is typical. Of course the annoying timeshare company Sundance Vacations were stopping people in the crowd. A hidden secret is the Electric City pizza shop has great pizza, a subway hoagie shop, and good prices right across the street and almost no wait, and the food is excellent. Of course there was the typical people begging for money, people who bring their dogs to a fireworks show, and the teenagers staring at their phones while playing no attention to where they are walking. No idea if they are playing Pokemon go or doing video selfies. Also this year the orchestra were good, but not nearly as good as the Philharmonic. The fireworks were the best non synchronized show I saw this year. All and all a nice time but not as good as some other years.

Rating 4 \*\*\*\* out of 5\*

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## **Blakely Junefest**

**1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Peckville, PA**

**Saturday June 30, 2018**

I would not have even known about the location for this picnic if I didn't hear a commercial on the River 104. They have to do a better job on promoting their picnic. There is plenty of reasonably close by parking. Some of the food is reasonable other food is a little expensive. The food is ok but not great. The band Kartune used to be much better when I heard them other years, this year just ok. The picnic was relatively boring with small crowds. I was ready to give a two star rating until the fireworks show. One word WOW!. It was the best synchronized fireworks show that I saw in many years. Not a great picnic but an ok picnic.

Rating 3 \*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## **Elmhurst Roaring Brook Fire Company**

**Off Route 435 Elmhurst, PA**

**Friday June 29, 2018**

This is a very nice picnic. They have great bands. The food is good and reasonably priced. There is plenty of free and close by parking. There is plenty to do for both children and adults. This would easily get 5 stars if only they would get rid of that annoying siren at the hot wings stand. Maybe the first year I heard it, it was cute, now it is just annoying. This year in the two hours that I was at the picnic it only went off maybe 20 times too many. Other than that a great picnic.

Rating 4 \*\*\*\* and 1/2 \* out of 5 \*

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## **Mary Mother of God Parish**

**North Scranton by Cole Muffler**

**Thursday - Saturday June 21-23, 2018**

This is without a doubt one of the best block parties of the season. The food was excellent as expected. The staff was friendly and helpful, They had a record number of baskets. The beer was nice and cold. They had games for both children and adults. I like to thank everyone who joined me at my stand for a game of Irish Poker. The potato pancakes were delicious. The entertainment Picture Perfect, The Chatter, Jim Cerminaro, and Pat McGlynn were excellent as always. Thursdays band "Handsome Devils" I am not sure if they were handsome or not, but boy were they LOUD!!!!. I liked hard rock before this band, now I am not sure, and a double treat I woke up next morning with a wicked headache. Other than one BAD band the block party was GREAT!

Rating 5 \*\*\*\*\* out of 5\*

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## **Jefferson Twp. Fire Company**

**Mt. Cobb Route 348**

**Friday June 15, 2018**

This is a decent picnic, actually more of a carnival. The food is decent and reasonably priced. The bands are usually good. the fireworks are usually good but I didn't go on fireworks night this year. Parking is terrible but slightly better than last year. Last year the lot was a mud bog. This year it was a little more solid. It is a decent picnic but not a great picnic. I word of advise for anyone who rides the rides at any one of these carnivals.

Look at the condition of the rides and the people who are operating the ride. Would they know what to do in an emergency. There was a ride malfunction and 16 children were stuck 30 feet in the air for over an hour. So be careful on any carnival rides, most are safe but things can happen, at any carnival.

Rating 3 \*\*\* and 1/2 \* out of 5 \*

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## Divine Mercy Parish

Minooka Section, Scranton, PA

Friday June 8, 2018

This was a decent picnic. The food was good and reasonably priced. I heard the ethnic food at the stand in the back was excellent, I mainly eat the standard picnic fare which was good and reasonably priced. The pancake line was shorter this year and the pancakes were better. The band was good but not great. They have plenty of games for both children and adults. It is a nice picnic, but they still do not get the crowds like they used to. It is well worth an annual visit

Rating 4 \*\*\*\* out of 5 \*

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## Queen City Days

Olyphant, PA

Saturday June 2, 2018

I had no idea that this picnic was happening if I did not see the report on channel 16. Like last year it is an ok picnic but not spectacular. The food is ok and a little more reasonably priced than last year. There are plenty of rides for the children, for the most part the ride operators were attentive although while walking through the grounds, I noticed some of them more interested in their cigarette or tapping on their phones. The fireworks were better and longer than last year (no big fireball misfire this year), but started a half hour late. So far the picnic season is starting out slow and unexciting this year. Hopefully it will get better.

Rating 3 \*\*\* of 5 \*

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## Jessup Hose Company

Jessup, Pa

**Sunday May 27, 2018**

This picnic is not a great picnic. But it is the first picnic of the season, so it is ok. The food was good but a little expensive this year. Potato pancakes were \$4.00 for an order and a medium coke was also \$4.00 which is ridiculous. Parking again this year was easy in the lot next to the fire house. I am glad I don't ride the rides or don't have children who ride the rides but I would think not one of the ride operators spoke English. My main complaint again is the teenagers who attend the carnival, they are very ignorant. They walk right in to you. They don't look where they are walking instead they stare at their phones and tap away. If they had better control of the teens, this would be a better picnic. But it is not a bad picnic. It was great just getting out there for the first picnic of the season.

**Rating 3 \*\*\* of 5 \***

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